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STATE OF ILLINOIS
*Department of
Rehabilitation Services*

Serving disabled children, youth and adults, the total rehabilitation agency concerned with employment, education, housing, public transportation, recreation and social attitudes.

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ACCESS ILLINOIS
HELPS DISABLED PEOPLE MOVE FORWARD

State of Illinois

Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

...the total rehabilitation services provider offering physical/mental/sensory restoration, education, training and job placement services to disabled children, youth and adults.

Department: DORS is the only state rehabilitation program in the nation to attain cabinet level status as an independent agency. Because of cabinet status, there now is direct contact between the Governor's Office and the Agency providing a full range of services to disabled residents of the State of Illinois.

Expansion: Federal authority: Title VII of the 1978 Rehabilitation Act Amendments provides for "Comprehensive Services for Independent Living". This landmark legislation allows VR agencies to provide: 1) services for children of pre-school age; 2) child development services; 3) service to individuals whose disabilities are so severe that they do not presently have the potential for employment but may benefit from VR services which will enable them to live and function independently; and 4) appropriate preventive services to decrease the needs of individuals assisted under the program for similar services in the future.

State authority: Legislation passed in 1979 transferred the administration of six government operated programs from other state entities to DORS. They are:

Illinois School for the Visually Impaired
Illinois Visually Handicapped Institute
Community Services for the Visually Handicapped

Forecast: In compliance with the provisions of the basic VR program mandate, DORS will continue to provide quality rehabilitation services in a timely manner to disabled individuals either directly or through other appropriate service providers to assist them in their efforts to secure or maintain gainful employment. These services include diagnostic and evaluation, medical, guidance and counseling, therapy, vocational training and education, job placement and follow-up and various support services.

Expansion: Expansion of responsibility at the state level coupled with expanded service authority at the federal level represent dynamic and challenging new opportunities for the Department of Rehabilitation Services and for the disabled children, youth and adults of Illinois.

Administration: Projects and services described below are administered through one of the Department's six Bureaus which are: Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, Rehabilitation Services for Adults, Rehabilitation Services for Children, Program and Administration Support Services, Disability Adjudication Services and Fiscal and Operational Support Services.

DIAL (Disabled Individuals' Assistance Line):

An information dissemination and referral system dealing with the concerns, problems and service needs of disabled people, family, friends and professionals in the field of rehabilitation. Using a "call collect" system with a teletypewriter (TTY) capability, the deaf and hearing impaired and all other callers can make direct contact with DIAL free of charge.

From anywhere in Illinois, Dial "O" and ask the operator to call collect (312) 793-5000.

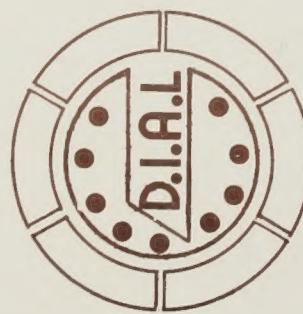
The purpose and the disposition of all inquiries are recorded, analyzed and submitted in report form by DIAL staff to agency administration for action. Information collected is used to: 1) prioritize existing problems, for example, transportation, employment, housing, etc.; 2) identify services needed and not available; 3) identify services needed and not delivered; 4) identify gaps in the continuum of services; and 5) provide appropriate preventive services to decrease the needs of individuals assisted under the program for similar services in the future.

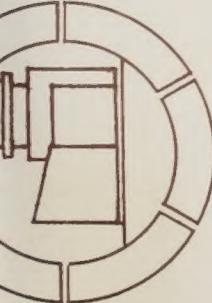
Access Illinois:

A project using all communication methods to provide the general public with accurate information about people with disabilities and the ways in which altered attitudes and a changed physical environment can help them become participating, productive, respected citizens.

As correct information is absorbed by the general public it is expected that elements of the environment adversely affecting each person's ability to work and play productively and independently will change.

Change must occur in five basic areas: employment opportunities, educational opportunities, public transportation, recreational facilities and programs and housing. As the man-made environment becomes functional and attitudes regarding disability are corrected, "disabled" people will truly have opportunities to compete and participate equally.





Composed of past, present or potential clients, a statewide Consumer Advisory Council and five Regional Advisory Councils provide input on an ongoing basis to the Agency's Director.

Consumer Affairs also coordinates the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and its Amendments with respect to Title V and Accessibility Initiatives in Illinois.

The Consumer Affairs Office also supervises the DIAL and the C-CAP projects.

Disability Adjudication Services:

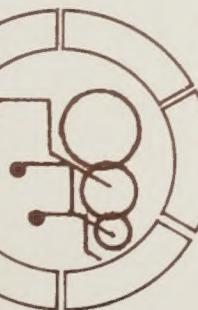
Determines applicants' medical eligibility for disability cash benefits sponsored under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

Annually, DAS makes benefit determinations on approximately 115,000 claimants.

In cases where the provision of rehabilitation services is likely to return the applicant or the beneficiary to gainful activity, DAS refers the individual to the local DORS services office.

Comprehensive Services for Independent Living:

Develops a network of independent living skills training, peer counseling, personal care attendant, transportation and housing service resources and/or centers which enable severely disabled children, youth and adults to avoid institutionalization or isolation and dependency.



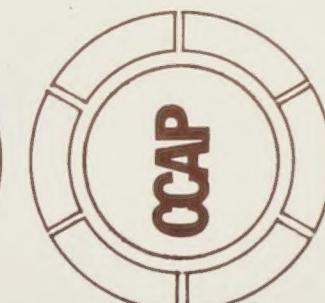
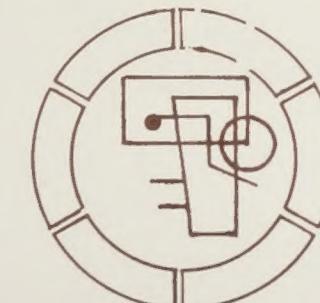
Passage of the 1978 Rehabilitation Act Amendments and the transfer of six existing State of Illinois programs to the Department of Rehabilitation Services pave the way for the delivery of a broader range of services to an expanded population. Perhaps most significantly, the programs transferred to DORS mandate that, for the first time, Illinois Rehabilitation will be working with very young children and youth and with adults who may not be able to benefit from the delivery of services in terms of a vocational goal.

Another dimension recently has been added to Comprehensive Services for Independent Living by the transfer of one fourth of the In Home Care Support Services Program for Disabled People from the Department of Public Aid to DORS. P.A. 81-202 prescribes "establishment of a program of services to prevent unnecessary institutionalization of persons in need of long term care who are blind or disabled as defined by the Social Security Act and who have a need for rehabilitation services."

Services could include home health and nursing services, homemaker, chore and housekeeping services, day care and home delivered meals, education in self and personal care or other nonmedical services that may enable the person to become self-supporting.

Employment/Business Enterprises/Job Development:

Especially trained staff works with job ready clients to help them secure and maintain appropriate employment in either the private or public sector. Staff monitors labor trends and advises counselors and clients regarding job-training/on-the-job training projects, job development and job engineering. When suitable, clients can be assisted in the establishment of small businesses.



C-CAP (Client-Counselor Assistance Project):

Serves as liaison, facilitator and/or advocate for past, present or potential clients who may be perplexed or confused by elements of the rehabilitation process. C-CAP may assist individuals in applying for DORS services and may inform clients about appeals procedures.

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